

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 NIC-01 EA-11 NEA-11 AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5549

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR UR US

SUBJ: MORE ON GROMYKO SPEECH IN ARMENIA

REF: MOSCOW 944

1. FULL TEXT OF GROMYKO SPEECH IN YEREVAN (REFTEL), NOW AVAILABLE HERE, CONFIRMS HIS UPBEAT APPROACH TO U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS, BUT CONTAINS SOME QUALIFIERS NOT IN PRAVDA SUMMARY. ON SALT GROMYKO SPECIFICALLY CAUTIONED AGAINST ANY ONE-SIDED ADVANTAGES FOR U.S. WHICH WOULD WEAKEN SECURITY OF SOVIETS OR THEIR ALLIES. GROMYKO ALSO CONCEDED THAT BILATERAL RELATIONS IN GENERAL ARE NOT PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY. FINALLY, IN REVIEWING SOVIET SUPPORT FOR NORTH VIETNAM DURING WAR, SOVIET FONMIN REFERRED TO "AMERICAN IMPERIALISM"--A USAGE QUITE RARE THESE DAYS.

2. SPEECH WAS ALSO NOTEWORTHY FOR EMPHASIS GROMYKO PUT ON SOVIET MILITARY STRENGTH. HE BEGAN FOREIGN POLICY SECTION WITH REFERENCE TO MILITARY POWER OF SOVIET STATE, ASSERTING THAT IT HAS LED IMPERIALIST CAMP TO CONCLUDE THAT MILITARY CONFRONTATION WITH USSR LEADS NOWHERE AND

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TO SEEK AGREEMENTS ON LENINIST BASIS OF PEACEFUL COEXIS-

TENCE. HE RETURNED TO THEME AT END OF SPEECH, SAYING
CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND POLITBURO ARE CURRENTLY GIVING
PRIORITY CONSIDERATION TO "ISSUES OF FURTHER RAISING
OF MILITARY CAPABILITY OF SOVIET UNION."

3. ON ME, GROMYKO GAVE STANDARD SUPPORT TO ARABS, BUT
DID TWIT THEM INDIRECTLY BY COMMENT THAT SOVIET
FRIENDS IN WORLD KNOW THAT "IN DIFFICULT MOMENTS DECISIVE
HELP CAN COME ONLY FROM US."DUBS

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